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## CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

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arrived in Iraq earlier to teach at medical schools. The Iraqi Teachers Union decided this spring, under existing cultural pacts, to send 80 teachers to Poland and Czechoslovakia to acquaint themselves with bloc educational achievements. In addition, the Ministry of Education has announced that 500 Iraqi students will study in bloc countries next school year.

An estimated 150 bloc military specialists are helping Iraqi troops in assembling and familiarizing themselves with Soviet weapons and equipment, which continue to arrive regularly at the port of Basra under the Soviet \$168,000,000 arms deal. Iraq, for its part, reportedly is planning to send additional personnel to the bloc for military training. Previously about 135 Iraqi mili-

tary personnel had been sent to the USSR and Czechoslovakia for training, including flight instruction.

Meanwhile, the bloc has rapidly implemented its trade agreements with Baghdad. Soviet vessels arrive about twice a week with cargoes of wheat, trucks, machinery, construction materials, and other standard trade commodities. In turn the bloc's share of Iraq's limited exports is increasing. Communist China alone has already taken 60,000 tons of surplus dates--Iraq's chief export. Since Iraq's exports, other than petroleum, are comparatively small, the bloc countries are accruing a substantial trade surplus which is resulting in a net gain for them of hard currency, mainly sterling.

## PEIPING'S "SERIOUS WARNINGS"

Peiping is still tenaciously engaged in an effort to "document" its charge that the United States is the aggressor in the Far East. On 31 July, the Chinese Communists issued the "61st serious warning," charging a US naval patrol plane with "violating" Communist-claimed air space over the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea.

Peiping apparently intends the warnings in part to give its territorial claims an air of legality. On 4 September 1958, at the height of the Taiwan Strait crisis, the Chinese Communists extended their territo-

rial limit 12 miles outside the most seaward of the coastal islands. The "first serious warning" followed on 7 September and, until late October, Peiping protested almost daily against "intrusions" by US ships and planes operating near the Nationalist-held islands. When US vessels moved farther offshore, the warnings dropped off sharply.

Only nine warnings were issued between 12 November and 22 June; thereafter, routine US aerial reconnaissance over the Paracel Islands became a source of frequent complaint despite the fact Peiping had not previously

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## BLOC EXPANDS RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

The Sino-Soviet bloc is continuing to expand and consolidate its relations with Iraq through projects in such fields as civil aviation, medical aid, and the peaceful use of atomic energy, and by rapidly implementing military, economic, and technical aid agreements. Bloc leaders, although undoubtedly concerned over recent setbacks suffered by the Iraqi Communist party, have maintained a posture of "friendship" toward Premier Qasim and his government through favorable propaganda and such demonstrations of "good will" as sending high-level delegations to the recent Iraqi revolutionary day celebration.

The Soviet delegation, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov and including Khrushchev's son-in-law, carried an invitation from the Soviet leader to Qasim--which he has accepted--to visit the USSR.

Baghdad on 30 July announced its decision--in response to Soviet overtures--to send a delegation to Moscow in August to conclude an agreement for "the peaceful use of atomic energy." Baghdad had previously reported a Soviet offer to supply Iraq with an atomic furnace for nuclear research.

On 28 July the director of the Iraqi civil airline announced that Iraq planned to open a Baghdad-Prague air route on 18 August. Negotiations to establish civil air routes with the Soviet Union and Hungary also are under way. The director also stated that Iraqi Airways had asked the Soviet Union to provide details on an unspecified Soviet passenger plane which would be used on both internal and external routes.

Moscow previously had offered to supply modern aircraft to Iraqi Airways, and may have expressed a willingness to supply pilots and other personnel to aid Iraqi Airways in its current operations.

The bloc--primarily because the only two foreign news agencies now servicing the Iraqi press are TASS and Communist China's NCNA--is attaining a dominant position from which it can exploit, for propaganda value, its dealings with Baghdad. The Iraqi Government itself, however, still has access to Western news sources.

There now are more than 250 bloc technicians in Iraq, and additional specialists are scheduled to arrive shortly. They are engaging in a wide variety of activities, some of which are called for under the Soviet \$137,500,000 economic aid agreement, including the improvement of port facilities at Basra and the surveys for an improved Baghdad-Basra railroad. Other bloc experts--who in some instances have replaced Western technicians--are participating in petroleum operations, medical assistance, civil defense, and municipal improvement projects, such as establishing fire departments, developing sewerage systems, and organizing street-cleaning operations. High-level bloc specialists, in addition, are advising Iraqi ministries.

Under cultural agreements signed with bloc members, the president of Baghdad University visited the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe earlier this year to recruit about 160 teachers for Iraqi educational institutions. Soviet physicians had

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